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(54) Method and system for single sign-on user access to multiple web servers

(57) Methods and systems for single sign-on user access to multiple web servers are provided. A user is authenticated at a first web server (e.g., by user name and password). The first web server provides a web page to the user having a service selector (e.g., a hyperlink comprising the URL of a second web server offering the service indicated by the selector). When the user activates the service selector, the first web server constructs and transmits an encrypted authentication

token (e.g., a cookie) from the first web server to a second web server via the user client. The first and second web servers share a sub-domain. The authentication token comprises an expiration time and is digitally signed by the first web server and is authenticated at the second web server. Upon authentication, the second web server allows the user to conduct a session at the second web server.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT								
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim						
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Y	ANSELM BAIRD-SMITH (ABAIRD@WW18.W3.ORG): "Re: URLEncoder, where is the URLDecoder? " INTERNET NEWSGROUP, 'Online! 29 April 1996 (1996-04-29), XPO02191148 comp.lang.java Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://groups.google.com/> 'retrieved on 2002-02-21! * the whole document *	10-12, 34-36						
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>28 June 2002</td> <td>Bertolissi, E</td> </tr> </table> <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	28 June 2002	Bertolissi, E
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 20 3266

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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